

known, to our reproach, that eastern North Carolina annually pays to the northern States, hundreds of thousands of dollars, for the article of hay alone. I might urge the importance of cultivating less land, and of devoting our energies to its more thorough improvement; but my language would be far less impressive, than the rural beauty which has often greeted your vision when traveling through the northern States of this Union; where handsome cottages, a plenteous board, smiling faces, and happy homes, constitute the wealth, and minister to the happiness of the owners of but a few acres, every foot of which is in a high state of fertility, devoted to some useful purpose, and yielding an abundant reward for their labor. I might insist on the necessity of manure, as a means of restoring and improving the soil; and on this point I presume, I should have less misgiving and prejudice to encounter, than on any other. This was, no doubt, the first movement ever made in agricultural science; and for thousands of years, continued to be the only one. The luxuriant vegetation following the accidental incorporation of manure with the soil, suggested itself to the senses, without the process of rational deduction. The importance of manure, as necessary to vigor of growth, and a sure return in fruit time, comes down to us sanctified by the moral teaching of the parable. The life of the barren figtree was besought and spared for one more year, till man should do his duty, in applying to it, the elements of fertility. The present condition of England, where in the last hundred years, the average of the wheat crop has been increased from an average of 12 to one of 24 bushels per acre, and in many districts to 50 or 60 bushels—of Massachusetts, where a soil, naturally barren and rugged, has been so subdued and improved as to support one of the most wealthy and powerful communities on the earth—afford a more eloquent and convincing argument, in favor of carefully preserving and restoring to the soil, the elements of manure, than language can utter or